GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2122
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2003
IT IN REGIONAL LANGUAGE
MAHESHWAR SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

:-

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to promote information technology in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that most of the population does not understand English; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to provide them the facility of information technology either in Hindi or other regional languages?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR)
(a) and (b): The Department of Information Technology has undertaken a scheme of setting up Community Information Centres (CICs) at 483 of 487 Block headquarters in the seven North-East states and Sikkim for acceleration of socio-economic development of the region. The Scheme helps in bridging the digital divide byproviding connectivity a t the grass root levels in Distance Learning programme, Web browsing, employment opportunities, public health awareness, disaster management systems and for interfacing with the government. The Department had established NICNET, whichprovides Network backbone and communication links in all district centres of the country and provide assistance to all the State and Central Government Departments towards Computerization. The Department had also established Four(4) Samadhan Kendras respectively, in Ramanathapuram (TN), Ujjain (MP),West Godavri Distt.(AP), and Chitrakoot (MP). In a recent initiative, the Department has taken further action towards developing IT application for the rural and poor people through Media Lab Asia for achieving the benefit of ICT technologies. This scheme is to address the grand challenges of poverty, literacy, education, health, employment, and micro-entrepreneurship.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d): The Departmentof Information Technology has set up 13 resource Centres for Indian Language Technology Solutions in various States of the country, covering all the 18 constitutionally recognized Indian languages. Localization of Technology and Content creation in Hindi and its availability on Computer & Internetis being spearheaded in Hindi speaking states under a programme: Content Development & IT Localization Network (COIL-Net).